

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 849

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2005

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark
County, Nevada, for use as a heliport.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO CLARK COUN-**
2 **TY, NEVADA.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

4 (1) the Las Vegas Valley in the State of Ne-
5 vada is the fastest growing community in the United
6 States;

7 (2) helicopter tour operations are conflicting
8 with the needs of long-established residential com-
9 munities in the Valley; and

10 (3) the designation of a public heliport in the
11 Valley that would reduce conflicts between helicopter
12 tour operators and residential communities is in the
13 public interest.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
15 a suitable location for the establishment of a commercial
16 service heliport facility to serve the Las Vegas Valley in
17 the State of Nevada while minimizing and mitigating the
18 impact of air tours on the Sloan Canyon National Con-
19 servation Area and North McCullough Mountains Wilder-
20 ness.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

22 (1) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term “Con-
23 servation Area” means the Sloan Canyon National
24 Conservation Area established by section 604(a) of

1 the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and
2 Natural Resources Act of 2002 (116 Stat. 2010).

3 (2) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Clark
4 County, Nevada.

5 (3) HELICOPTER TOUR.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “helicopter
7 tour” means a commercial helicopter tour oper-
8 ated for profit.

9 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “helicopter
10 tour” does not include a helicopter tour that is
11 carried out to assist a Federal, State, or local
12 agency.

13 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (5) WILDERNESS.—The term “Wilderness”
16 means the North McCullough Mountains Wilderness
17 established by section 202(a)(13) of the Clark Coun-
18 ty Conservation of Public Land and Natural Re-
19 sources Act of 2002 (116 Stat. 2000).

20 (d) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey
22 to the County, subject to valid existing rights, for no con-
23 sideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States
24 in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (e).

1 (e) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land to
2 be conveyed under subsection (d) is the parcel of approxi-
3 mately 229 acres of land depicted as tract A on the map
4 entitled “Clark County Public Heliport Facility” and
5 dated May 3, 2004.

6 (f) USE OF LAND.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The parcel of land conveyed
8 under subsection (d)—

9 (A) shall be used by the County for the op-
10 eration of a heliport facility under the condi-
11 tions stated in paragraphs (2) and (3); and

12 (B) shall not be disposed of by the County.

13 (2) IMPOSITION OF FEES.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Any operator of a heli-
15 copter tour originating from or concluding at
16 the parcel of land described in subsection (e)
17 shall pay to the Clark County Department of
18 Aviation a \$3 conservation fee for each pas-
19 senger on the helicopter tour if any portion of
20 the helicopter tour occurs over the Conservation
21 Area.

22 (B) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Any
23 amounts collected under subparagraph (A) shall
24 be deposited in a special account in the Treas-
25 ury of the United States, which shall be avail-

1 able to the Secretary, without further appro-
2 priation, for the management of cultural, wild-
3 life, and wilderness resources on public land in
4 the State of Nevada.

5 (3) FLIGHT PATH.—Except for safety reasons,
6 any helicopter tour originating or concluding at the
7 parcel of land described in subsection (e) that flies
8 over the Conservation Area shall not fly—

9 (A) over any area in the Conservation Area
10 except the area that is between 3 and 5 miles
11 north of the latitude of the southernmost
12 boundary of the Conservation Area;

13 (B) lower than 1,000 feet over the eastern
14 segments of the boundary of the Conservation
15 Area; or

16 (C) lower than 500 feet over the western
17 segments of the boundary of the Conservation
18 Area.

19 (4) REVERSION.—If the County ceases to use
20 any of the land described in subsection (d) for the
21 purpose described in paragraph (1)(A) and under
22 the conditions stated in paragraphs (2) and (3)—

23 (A) title to the parcel shall revert to the
24 United States, at the option of the United
25 States; and

1 (B) the County shall be responsible for any
2 reclamation necessary to revert the parcel to
3 the United States.

4 (g) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall
5 require, as a condition of the conveyance under subsection
6 (d), that the County pay the administrative costs of the
7 conveyance, including survey costs and any other costs as-
8 sociated with the transfer of title.

Passed the House of Representatives May 23, 2005.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.